

## State Commission

The Ohio Commission on Service and Volunteerism (ServeOhio) manages 20 AmeriCorps programs engaging more than 800 members serving at 440 sites across the state of Ohio. AmeriCorps members address critical local needs in education, health, and economic opportunity, building the capacity of schools and community organizations to achieve results. In the current program year, Ohio AmeriCorps members will tutor, mentor, and teach more than 50,000 students -- increasing attendance rates and course completion to help students build successful strategies for high school graduation, higher education, and meaningful employment opportunities to achieve long-term life goals. In addition, ServeOhio invests in local volunteer mobilization through its private public partnership, Stewards of Service. ServeOhio provides local project funding on National Days of Service (MLK Day of Service, Global Youth Service Day, and Make A Difference Day), champions outstanding volunteer efforts through the ServeOhio Awards, and provides high-quality professional development to improve volunteer infrastructure.

## AmeriCorps State

The Youngstown Neighborhood Development Corporation engages 13 AmeriCorps members in the YNDC REVITALIZE AmeriCorps program. The members create high-quality affordable housing by cleaning up and landscaping vacant lots, developing long-term reuse strategies with neighborhood residents and stakeholders, boarding and securing vacant and blighted structures to increase safety and rehabilitation, and making repairs to low-income, owner-occupied households to sustain home-ownership. In its first year of operation from 2014-2015, ten AmeriCorps members repaired and rehabilitated 22 housing units allowing 27 low-income individuals to purchase 16 units or remain in safe and affordable housing. AmeriCorps members provided maintenance and landscaping to almost 600 vacant lots and abandoned homes to increase safety and reduce crime in targeted areas identified by Youngstown's neighborhood revitalization plans. More than 400 community volunteers provided 2,300 hours of service during monthly neighborhood projects and National Days of Service. AmeriCorps members and volunteers removed 474 tires, 369 cubic yards of debris, and 1,170 bags of trash, reclaiming 890 feet of sidewalk.

The Ohio Association of Community Colleges hosts 27 AmeriCorps members as College Completion Coaches at 13 community college campuses. Members provide intense guidance and support to first-time community college students who are in need of developmental or first-year experience coursework to ensure completion of developmental courses and enrollment in credit-bearing college-level courses. In the 2014-2015 program year, AmeriCorps members coached 3,686 students 1,993 students completing all of the attempted developmental and remedial education courses and 1,405 of the students meeting annual credit hour expectations. Among these successful students, 680 were full-time and 725 were part-time. More than half of the full-time students earned the expected first-year credits. A total of 946 students enrolled in college-level coursework in the term or school year following their coaching experience. Additionally, members engaged 492 students, community members, and college staff in 856 hours of volunteer service on National Days of Service.

## AmeriCorps National

Cleveland's HIV prevalence rate is nearly three times the national average. To address HIV in Cleveland, eight full-time AIDS United AmeriCorps members provide direct services to the community, including HIV testing and counseling, health care access, prevention education, and emotional and social services to at-risk populations. Since 2013, AIDS United AmeriCorps members in Cleveland have informed more than 200 individuals of their HIV status through HIV rapid testing and reached more than 600 people through HIV prevention education sessions. More than 90 percent of educational session participants surveyed reported an increase in knowledge of HIV transmission and prevention, as well as how to minimize their risk for HIV infection. AmeriCorps members have mobilized more than 150 volunteers in the Cleveland area.

Cleveland and Columbus have 114 City Year AmeriCorps members who serve full-time at 13 schools, helping more than 6,680 students at greatest risk of dropping out. AmeriCorps members serve alongside teachers, using research-based tools to improve students' attendance, behavior, and performance in math and English. The members also lead afterschool programs and school-wide initiatives to improve school culture. In Cleveland, 71 percent of students who had individual support improved their math and English assessment results. City Year Cleveland celebrated the collaborative achievements of its first graduating class at East Technical High School: the average GPA rose from 1.85 to 2.76. In Columbus, 85 percent of students in grades 6 through 9 who had support from City Year AmeriCorps members improved at least one letter grade. Champion Middle School saw a 50 percent drop in behavior referrals from the previous year, which the principal attributes to the presence and work of City Year Columbus.

Youth Volunteer Corps has one AmeriCorps member who serves Cleveland. Since the local launch in August of 2015, that member has engaged 208 youth, including 30 disengaged youth. The youth have given 970 hours of service. They have served on 144 projects for 31 local agencies, including St. Augustine Health Ministries, Superior Elementary School, Homeless Stand Down, FrontLine Services, and City of Cleveland Department of Aging.

## AmeriCorps VISTA

The Ohio Community Development Corporation Association (OCDCA) is a statewide membership organization of community development corporations that engages in capacity building and public policy development to foster socially and economically healthy communities. OCDCA's vision is the creation of a community development environment that comprehensively improves life opportunities for all residents. Annually, OCDCA supports up to 35 AmeriCorps VISTA members, ten of which are supported by local funding. Members support a variety of programs, including affordable housing development, housing counseling, employment training, healthy food access, and social enterprise. Over the last few years, OCDCA VISTA members have recruited 8,766 volunteers who served 43,465 hours. Members also generated more than \$2.6 million in cash and in-kind contributions which support housing, community development, and financial programming.

Think Tank, Inc., located in Springfield, administers an AmeriCorps VISTA intermediary project with 16 members. The organization alleviates poverty by equipping communities to embrace mindsets and practices that restore the social fabric of society. It has partnered with the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Corrections to develop, train, and equip Ohio communities that are working to combat recidivism. Think Tank, Inc. is expanding reentry efforts by working with local Reentry Coalitions. Four AmeriCorps VISTA members working on this program have developed curriculum for volunteers and returning citizens, created a structure for weekly support meetings, designed and coordinated volunteer training and recruitment, organized a data tracking system for outcome management, and developed a reentry simulation in partnership with the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Corrections. Most significantly, AmeriCorps VISTA support has created a replicable service model, Reentry Connect, for communities to support returning citizens. This model will be expanded to 20 Reentry Coalitions across the state in 2017-2018.

## AmeriCorps NCCC

Supports to Encourage Low-Income Families (SELF) enhances the quality of life for Butler County residents by addressing the causes of poverty and empowering individuals to achieve, sustain, and advocate for self-sufficiency. SELF performs volunteer-driven emergency home repairs for low-income homeowners and has developed an annual partnership with Group Workcamps to bring week-long home repair blitzes to the community. Each camp includes students from around the country who volunteer to repair 40-50 homes. An AmeriCorps NCCC team was requested to support the SELF program and assist more homeowners. They completed work on fifteen different homes. Members worked to make four homes handicap accessible, spent a large portion of their time scraping and painting porches, windows, stairways, and both interior and exterior walls, and completed two roofing projects. This service benefitted community members by equipping them with safer amenities in and around their homes, helped to avoid potential fines from building violations, and most importantly, generated a sense of pride for the whole community as the neighborhood received a much-needed facelift.

The mission of The Nature Conservancy is to conserve the lands and waters on which all life depends. This protection occurs through acquisition and management of habitat for threatened and endangered species and natural communities. The Ohio Chapter of The Nature Conservancy leads restoration efforts in the Lakeplain Oak Openings Region of Northwest Ohio and Southeast Michigan. An AmeriCorps NCCC team supported the organization in the fall of 2014 by preparing brush on 22 acres for prescribed burns; clearing one and a half miles of trail; and weeding and reseeding another half-acre with native flora. Through NCCC's service, The Nature Conservancy, visitors, the local community, and the campers of Camp Courageous located within the Oak Openings Region, will be able to view more of the diverse ecology of the surrounding forest. The creation of brush piles and the removal of invasive species, in addition to the collection, planting, and transplanting of native seeds and native plants, will promote the positive biodiversity of these environments for years to come.

## Senior Corps Foster Grandparent Program

The Akron Summit Community Action Foster Grandparent Program placed 71 Foster Grandparents in Head Start classrooms, Akron Public Schools, day care and early education centers, Akron Children's Hospital, and other organizations serving children with special needs in the 2014-2015 program year. It is evident from teacher reports that the Foster Grandparents are having a positive impact on the academic achievement of the children they serve. Of the 62 children who were served in Head Start classrooms, teachers reported that 100 percent demonstrated gains in literacy skills. Foster Grandparents served an additional 32 youth in other early education centers and 96 percent of those children demonstrated gains in literacy skills. For the 34 children in Akron Public Schools who were served by a Foster Grandparent, 97 percent demonstrated gains in either literacy or math as reported by their classroom teacher.

## Senior Corps RSVP

The RSVP program of Clark and Madison Counties organizes and runs the Jeffersonian Senior Center's commodity box distribution program. Based on their conviction that every senior in Madison County should have access to food, they have added three additional distribution sites to serve more than 80 regular clients. While interacting with these clients, the volunteers recognized a desperate need for medical transportation. Seniors needed help get to medical appointments and regular treatments with specialists and treatment centers in more populous areas such as Columbus. To meet the need, ten RSVP volunteers transport clients to specialists and treatment centers as far away as Columbus. Since starting the service in 2014, they have transported 20 people to their appointments on a regular basis.

## Senior Corps Senior Companion Program

Family & Community Services Senior Companion Program of Summit and Portage Counties will use the Chronic Disease Self-Management Program to help individuals improve their health behaviors, improve their health status, and decrease their days in the hospital. Senior Companion Program staff have been trained as leaders and will conduct six weekly workshops for Senior Companions. Over the next six months, at least 75 percent of the current 13 Portage County Senior Companions and at least 60 percent of the 25 Summit County Senior Companions will complete the training. The Chronic Disease Self-Management Program is a structured process developed by Stanford University to help people manage their own health conditions. After training, Senior Companions will better manage their own health conditions as well as make helpful suggestions to their clients. In the future, Family & Community Services will expand the program to additional counties and hold trainings in senior apartment complexes as well.

## Social Innovation Fund

The Social Innovation Fund (SIF) transforms lives by using evidence to find what works and make it work for more people. The SIF Classic and SIF Pay for Success programs harness the expertise of grantmaking intermediaries to identify, evaluate and expand effective nonprofits serving low-income communities across America. The SIF programs in Ohio are primarily focused on strengthening the workforce throughout the state in order to improve economic opportunities for residents. In the past year, subgrantees have helped place 570 individuals in jobs. The Social Innovation Fund is investing \$50,000 in expanding the impact of six nonprofits in Ohio.